

Hafa Adai!

Judiciary's \$14.8M request for FY 2025 includes pay raises. **PAGE 2**
'Where our fathers once fought, our families find peace' **PAGE 9**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Proposed lease renewal now with 2 committees

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday he will let the committee do its work in reviewing the Department of Public Lands' proposal to grant a new lease to Suwaso Corp. so it could continue to operate its Coral Ocean Resort for another 40 years, and then act from there.



Camacho



Magofna

When asked yesterday about DPL's proposed lease renewal, Villagomez said he referred the matter to the House's Natural Resources Committee chaired by Rep. Angelo Camacho (Ind-Saipan).

See LEASE on Page 4

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) also said yesterday that the new land lease proposal has been referred to the Resources, Economic Development,

See LEASE on Page 4

Dewey is back in Indiana

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Media outlets in Fort Wayne, Indiana have reported that Charles Lee Dewey III, alias Allen Widmor, has already arrived in Allen County, officially completing the extradition process that started earlier this year.

Dewey, who is facing multiple sexual assault and rape charges in Fort Wayne, Indiana, officially returned to Allen County about three weeks ago and will remain detained in the Allen County jail pending further court proceedings.

According to Allen County

See DEWEY on Page 4



OIL SPILL EXERCISE

U.S. Coast Guard members observe a boom deployment during a Government-Initiated Unannounced Exercise, or GIUE, at Mobiil Saipan last Feb. 29, 2024, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The primary goal of a GIUE is to ensure that the plan holder can effectively implement their response plan during a marine environmental response scenario.

U.S. COAST GUARD/LT. JUSTIN MILLER

SCC backs revising Labor's mandate for greater authority

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



DeLeon Guerrero

Guerrero

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce applauds the efforts of the CNMI Department of Labor toward streamlining its services and operations.

By revising Labor's mandate to include greater authority, the department stands to significantly improve labor and workforce management within the region, said Saipan Chamber of Commerce presi-

See SCC on Page 4

IPI tries for another TRO vs. CCC

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Casino operator Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has filed another request for a temporary restraining

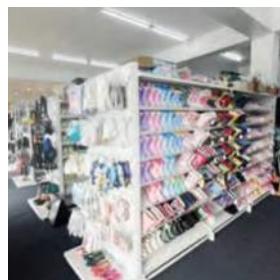
order to stay the Commonwealth Casino Commission's revocation proceedings; this time claiming their due process rights will be violated if not granted one.

It was only last Feb. 27

when U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David Carter denied IPI's motion for a TRO against CCC, essentially allowing the commission to move forward

See IPI on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Saipan Shoes has now expanded to twice the size of its original store in Gualo Rai.

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WORLD

Baltimore police scrambled to stop traffic before the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapsed.

PAGE 11



LIFE & STYLE

Sean "Diddy" Combs' lawyer said the searches of the rapper's home were "a gross use of military-level force."

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Local

Judiciary's \$14.8M budget request for FY 2025 includes pay raises

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Judiciary's budget request to the Legislature in the amount of \$14.8 million for fiscal year 2025 includes a 10% pay raise for Judiciary employees.

For the second consecutive year, the Judiciary's request for funds to build a new courthouse on Tinian is absent from this year's submission, noted Castro and Naraja in a joint letter to Senate President

and Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja said the Judiciary's budget request for \$14,889,474 includes a 10% pay raise for Judiciary employees.

Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan). Castro and Naraja pointed out that this omission does not signify a lack of commitment to initiating this long-awaited Tinian courthouse project, but mirrors the current financial constraints



faced by the Commonwealth. "The Judiciary remains committed to constructing a new courthouse on Tinian," the two said, adding that the Judiciary remains resolute in its pursuit of securing funding for the courthouse project, exploring all possible avenues to fulfill this aspiration.

Highlighting the vital role of the Judiciary staff in ensuring uninterrupted judicial services at Guma' Hustisia on Saipan, Centron Hustisia on Rota, and Kotten Tinian, Castro and Naraja said this budget request is designed to retain current personnel and expand services through requested and previously granted but unfunded number of positions.

To achieve their objectives, Castro and Naraja said, their proposal includes retention of existing NOPs, local funding for current employees supported by the American Rescue Fund Act, and approval of all requested new NOPs.

In fiscal year 2024, the Judiciary continued to leverage ARPA funding to enhance service accessibility for CNMI residents, they said, and that ARPA-funded employees played a pivotal role in advancing electronic recording,

digitizing historical documents, and collaborating on the court's new case management system scheduled for launch in 2024. They said the launch of this new system will streamline the judicial process and enhance the payment and collection processes for both the Judiciary and the Department of Finance.

"Failure to fund these positions would impede the substantial progress achieved in the last two years," Castro and Naraja said.

While the budget submission addresses the Judiciary's immediate needs amid the CNMI's current financial situation, they said it does not fully encapsulate the resources required to reach their maximum potential.

For fiscal year 2024, the Judiciary was appropriated \$6 million under Public Law 23-9, or the FY 2024 Appropriation Act.

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is coming to an end.



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Better Together



OIA grant backs new Chuuk hospital

The Office of Insular Affairs announced yesterday an investment of \$8,486,000 in Compact of Free Association grant assistance in support of the Federated States of Micronesia government's efforts toward designing, developing and engineering a new hospital in Chuuk State.

"We are thrilled to contribute to and support the initial development of a much-needed healthcare facility to address health care needs on Weno and communities throughout Chuuk State," said Carmen

G. Cantor, assistant secretary, Insular and International Affairs. "The collaboration efforts underscore our commitment under the Compact of Free Association to improve infrastructure in the region."

This marks a significant milestone in collaborations to enhance healthcare services in Chuuk and replace hospital

infrastructure that was built prior to 1986 or the beginning of the Compact of Free Association relationship. (PR)

CNMI Liberation Day Committee opens call for participation in Liberation Day Festivities

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' Liberation Day Committee is excited to announce the opening of applications for Royal Court candidates, parade participants, and food vendors for the upcoming 78th Liberation Day celebrations.

This year holds special significance as it is not only an annual event commemorating the liberation of the CNMI, but this year commemorates the 80th anniversary of the historic Battles of Saipan and Tinian—pivotal events during World War II. Liberation Day serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made and the resilience shown by the people of the Northern Mariana Islands during this tumultuous period in history.

This year, the festivities are scheduled to take place from June 15 to July 6, 2024, promising weeks of vibrant celebrations, cultural displays, and community spirit. Your CNMI Liberation Day Committee invites all interested individuals to participate in various capacities:

■ **Royal Court candidates:** As a cornerstone of the Liberation Day celebrations, the Royal Court plays a crucial role in honoring the CNMI's rich cultural heritage. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply and showcase their cultural pride and leadership qualities. **Deadline to submit application is on April 19, 2024.**

■ **Parade participants:** The Liberation Day parade is a highlight of the festivities, featuring colorful floats, traditional dances, marching bands, and community groups. All organizations, schools, businesses, and individuals are

welcome to join the parade and contribute to the celebratory atmosphere. **Deadline to submit application is on June 14, 2024.**

■ **Food vendors:** A diverse array of culinary delights awaits festival-goers during Liberation Day. Food vendors are invited to showcase their specialties, offering a taste of

CNMI's rich culinary delicacies to attendees. **Deadline to submit application is on May 31, 2024.**

Visit us online at saipan-mayor.cnmi.gov saipanmayor.orbcamacho

Participants interested in joining the royal court, parade, or serving as food vendors

See CNMI on Page 4

SCC sets April membership meeting on Apr. 3

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have its April general membership meeting on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at the Hibiscus Hall of Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

The meeting's special guest speaker is Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence Camacho of the CNMI Public School System. He will present his vision for PSS.

There will also be a Mem-

ber Spotlight presentation featuring Triple J Saipan. Member Spotlight presentations are a part of the benefit of sponsoring the Chamber's major events. Triple J Saipan sponsored a hole-in-one prize at the SCC's 14th Annual Golf Tournament in 2023.

GMM lunch fees for 2024 have been adjusted to \$35 for Chamber members and \$40 for future Chamber members. (PR)

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Catholic Charities - Diocese of Chalan Kanoa

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(1) SHELTER WORKER

For more information or interested applicants can email: info@karidat.org to receive a position description and fillable form.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: A completed application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-date; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, April 5, 2024 AT 4:00 PM

GPPC
General Contractor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Attention Residents and Commuters: Extended Working Hours at Route 33 Project Ph.2, 3&4.

Please be advised that the road project taking place along Beach Road (from Gold Ribbon to American Memorial Park) will be extending its working hours from 6:00 AM to 4:00 AM in the morning, effective immediately.

This extension is necessary to expedite the completion of the project and minimize disruptions to the community. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this period.

For any inquiries or concerns regarding the extended working hours, please contact +1670-483-7172 or +1670-789-1742.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Sincerely,
GPPC Inc.
Management

NATIONAL AHEC WEEK

NMC highlights AHEC Scholar Kimberly Babauta Hofsneider

Northern Marianas College proudly presents Kimberly Babauta Hofsneider, a second-year Nursing student, as the featured Area Health Education Center Scholar for 2024 National AHEC Week.

Through the AHEC Scholars Program, Hofsneider

Editor's Note

The week of March 25-29, 2024, marks National Area Health Education Center week, during which Northern Marianas College will highlight its AHEC scholars. These scholars are currently pursuing studies to become registered nurses, aiming to bolster the local healthcare workforce and contribute to the community of CNMI.

has broadened her skillset and gained a deeper understanding of rural healthcare. On top of immersing herself in 80 hours of clinical rotations, she has strengthened her theoretical knowledge through 80 hours of engaging coursework centered on AHEC Scholars core topic areas. These topics encompass Interprofessional

Education, Behavioral Health Integration, the Social Determinants of Health, Cultural Competency, Practice Trans-



Kimberly Babauta Hofsneider is a second-year Nursing student at Northern Marianas College and is an Area Health Education Center Scholar.

formation, Virtual Learning and Telehealth, Connecting Communities and Supporting Health Professionals, and

keeping abreast of the latest health concerns.

With an expected graduation in May 2024, Hofsneider's remarkable journey at NMC is characterized by her unwavering dedication to healthcare and her profound commitment to serving the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Hofsneider's transformative experience at NMC has been instrumental in shaping her passion for nursing. Originally an Accounting major at the University of Portland, Hofsneider's career trajectory took a pivotal turn when she had the opportunity to work at Kaiser Permanente. Her subsequent roles as a cardiology scheduler and imaging assistant at Kaiser Westside Hospital exposed her to the intricacies of healthcare and ignited her passion for serving others.

Reflecting on her time at NMC, Hofsneider said, "Northern Marianas College has been the cornerstone of my journey into nursing. The supportive environment and quality education provided by NMC have equipped me with the knowledge and skills nec-

essary to pursue my passion for healthcare."

Hofsneider's commitment to nursing extends beyond the classroom as she envisions making significant contributions to healthcare in the CNMI. With a particular interest in dermatology, she aims to provide specialized care focusing on integumentary health and treatments, addressing a critical aspect of healthcare often overlooked in the region. Despite the rigorous demands of the nursing

program, Hofsneider has demonstrated resilience and determination in managing her workload while maintaining a healthy work-life balance. From planning childcare arrangements to prioritizing her physical and mental well-being, Hofsneider's dedication to self-care serves as a testament to her unwavering commitment to excellence.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

SCC

From page 1

dent Joe C. Guerrero.

Guerrero made the comments in his letter last Thursday to Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan), where he expressed support for Senate Bill 23-57, which aims to realign the authority and duties of Labor.

"We believe that this is the right step forward to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of our Labor Department," Guerrero said.

Introduced by DeLeon Guerrero, Senate Bill 23-57 aims to clarify and define the duties and authority of Labor, its secretary, and its various divisions or offices.

DeLeon Guerrero stated in the bill that Labor will be better equipped to address current and future labor and employment issues in the Commonwealth by making the changes outlined in the bill.

The Senate president cited Labor's long history of multiple reorganizations that, according to her, has left its statutory authority and duties unclear and lacking.

Labor was originally established in 1978 pursuant to Public Law 1-8, as the Department of Labor and Commerce. Executive Order 94-3 changed its name to Department of Labor and Immigration.

After the enactment of the federal Consolidated Natural Resources Act, which transferred immigration authority to the federal government, the department was then renamed as Department of Labor.

Overall, such reorganizations have left the department's statutory authority and duties undefined, said DeLeon Guerrero.

This issue was somewhat addressed by Public Law 15-108 and Labor's regulations, but these regulations are an insufficient substitute for clear statutory authority, she added.

LEASE

From page 1

Programs & Gaming Committee chaired by Sen. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan).

Magofna said yesterday she tentatively scheduled a public hearing for April 9, 2024, at 10am in the Senate chamber.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios generally supports granting a new land lease to Suwaso Corp. He said he trusts DPL and the lawyers that helped craft the proposal.

Under the DPL proposal, which needs the Legislature's approval, Suwaso is allowed to continue its operation of the Coral Ocean Re-

sort in As Gonno for another 40 years, with an investment of over \$30 million. Suwaso will be granted an additional 15-year lease extension if the initial lease is granted by DPL and is approved by the Legislature.

DPL Secretary Teresita A. Santos informed the Legislature in a letter last March 11 that Suwaso has sustained a good relationship with DPL and the company has been compliant with the provisions of the lease and has kept its account current.

Santos attached in her letter a packet of documents for the Legislature's review and consideration of Suwaso's request to renew its land lease.

IPI

From page 1

with proceedings to revoke IPI's casino gaming license.

Next week, April 2, the CCC is set to deliberate and vote on whether to revoke IPI's casino gaming license or not.

Because of this, IPI, through lawyers Stephen Nutting and Michael Chen, is again seeking a TRO to stay the proceedings and to preserve the status quo, claiming possible violation of its due process rights, "pursuant to Rule 65 (b) of the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure."

The temporary restraining order seeks to bar the CCC from proceeding with deliberation and voting for the revocation hearing of IPI's casino license on April 2.

According to the 28-page memorandum in support of the TRO, IPI argues that its

due process rights were violated because four of the five CCC commissioners served as the hearing officers in the revocation proceedings (despite oral motions made by IPI that they be disqualified).

In addition, IPI argues that having these commissioners serve as the hearing officers violates IPI's due process rights because they have significant personal interests in the outcome of the proceedings.

"Plaintiff has a right to resolve in an impartial, disinterested, and competent forum whether the \$3-million annual regulatory fee statute (upon which the revocation effort is based) is constitutional, and whether *force majeure* would be a valid defense for IPI's failure to make the annual regulatory fee payment in year 2020. The revocation hearing conducted by CCC from Feb.

28 to March 1, where four of the five commissioners sat through the proceeding as the hearing commissioners, [went ahead] despite four oral motions for disqualification raised by IPI during the revocation proceeding. The four hearing commissioners have significant, direct, pecuniary and arguably personal interests in the outcome of the proceeding. As such, the proceeding took place in the past has already violated IPI's constitutional due process rights," said IPI.

IPI also argues that the CCC, with the five commissioners as the voting members for the revocation hearing, is ill-fitted to adjudicate the complex legal issues for two reasons: potential conflict of interests and institutional incompetency and lack of resources.

Because of this, IPI argues that the decision

whether to revoke IPI's casino gaming license should be made by a court.

"None of the five commissioners are lawyers. Aside from the conflicts of interests, it would be a difficult task for the five commissioners to adjudicate the complex legal issues before them. A decision by the court with competent jurisdiction on the issues of constitutionality, forum selection, conflict of interests, *force majeure*, etc. will provide guidance to CCC in deciding the issues presented before CCC. An adverse and rushed decision by CCC would surely invite additional litigation in both CNMI and federal courts, which would result in a waste of judicial resources," IPI argues.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

miles (11,897.88 km). In addition, Hershberger notes that the cost to extradite Dewey from Saipan back to Indiana could be about \$31,000; they have yet to receive the official numbers.

Last Feb. 28, Allen County Sheriff's Department representatives arrived on Saipan to escort Dewey. *Saipan Tribune* learned they officially left the island on Feb. 29.

Dewey, who has been going by the alias Widmor since

he fled the state of Indiana to Saipan back in 2022, was arrested last Jan. 26 at the Kagman Community Health Center where he was working. When confronted, Dewey allegedly admitted to officers his real name and he was immediately arrested. He was charged with one count of fugitive from justice and was booked and detained at the Department of Corrections.

According to court documents, Dewey fled Indiana

where he has over six outstanding arrest warrants on multiple cases involving rape, sexual misconduct with minors, sexual battery, child solicitation, possession of child pornography, dissemination of matter harmful to a minor, and more.

The charges against Dewey date as far back as 2020.

During a status conference last Feb. 14, Dewey upheld his innocence, stating he is the victim in all these accusations.

DEWEY

From page 1

Sheriff Troy Hershberger, Dewey was the farthest suspect they ever had to track down. The last individual the Allen County Sheriff's department had to track down was back in the '90s and he never made it as far as Dewey did. A quick Google search says the distance between Indiana and Saipan is 7,393

tion670@gmail.com. For more information and to stay updated on Liberation Day festivities, visit www.saipanmayor.cnmi.gov or follow the Saipan Mayor's Office Facebook and Instagram at saipanmayorrbcamacho. (PR)

CNMI

From page 3

are encouraged to contact the CNMI Liberation Day Committee for application details and guidelines at (670) 234-6208 or email at cnmiliberation@gmail.com.

Resources taught to deaf and hard of hearing families



The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., in collaboration with the CNMI Public School System's Special Education, conducted a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Family Engagement Workshop at the Saipan World Resort on March 9, 2024. The event participants included parents, DHH children, family members and the professional who serves them.

The CHCC Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program is one of 59 programs across the United States and its jurisdictions that works to ensure that all infants are screened for hearing loss by 1 month of age, diagnosed for hearing loss 3 months of age

and enrolled in Early Intervention by 6 months of age.

CHCC provided presentation and information on the variety of programs available at CHCC that provide services to children with special health-care needs:

- Newborn Screening Program
- Early Childhood Screenings
- Service Coordination
- Family-to-Family Health Information Center (parent leadership trainings and peer-to-peer support groups)

Dr. Angie Mister, PSS audiologist, and Tricia Taitano, DHH instructor, conducted the

team building activities and engaged family participants in the American Sign Language and ASL family bingo.

To accommodate the communication needs and promote inclusion, Mystica Kaipat provided the sign language inter-

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Paid for by official funds authorized by the U.S. House of Representatives.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., in collaboration with the CNMI Public School System's Special Education, conducted a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Family Engagement Workshop at the Saipan World Resort on March 9, 2024.

pretation for the children who are deaf and/or with a severe to profound hearing loss.

The goal of the workshop was to provide guidance to develop and maintain active family engagement and leadership capacity for families of DHH children identified and

served through the CHCC and PSS. Participants expressed how valuable the opportunity was for them and appreciated being able to connect with other parents and children. One parent stated, "My family and I are so happy to be here. I'm so happy to see other children who have the same type of hearing loss as my child."

For more information on the CHCC-Children with Special Healthcare Programs and services, please contact Shiella Marie Deray at (670) 236-8709 or email at shiella.deray@chcc.health.

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting
April 04, 2024 | 2:00 PM
Multi-Purpose Center • Susupe, Saipan
Tel: 670-234-9661/2 • Fax: 670-234-9666
E-mail: ZoningBoard@cnmzoning.com



AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of 04/04/24 Meeting Agenda
4. Adoption of 03/07/2024 Special Meeting Minutes
5. Communications
6. Public Comments (not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

1. **Conditional Use Application #2023-2044** – Da Green Door proposes to develop **Two (2)** ocean freight shipping containers measuring **42' .10" (L) x 20' (W) x 10' .5" (H)** for its "Cannabis Retail" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 008 D 17 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2023-2045** – LK Corporation dba Gualo Rai Guest House proposes to utilize **Three (3)** units measuring **66' 3" (L) x 23' 2" (W)** on the 2nd floor of an existing two-story building for its "Hotel/Motel/Guest House- Guest House" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 1877-1-3 in the village of Gualo Rai. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2024-0598** – SPP LLC dba Canna Saipan Retail proposes to utilize **one (1)** unit measuring **44'-8" (L) x 15' 3" (W)** on the ground floor of an existing three-story building for its "Cannabis Retail" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 009 D 67 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.
4. **Conditional Use Application #2024-0599** – SPP LLC dba Canna Saipan Lounge proposes to utilize **one (1)** unit on the ground floor of an existing three-story building measuring **44'-8" (L) x 14' 11" (W)** for its "Cannabis Lounge" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 009 D 67 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

C. Old Business

1. Proposed Text Amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 – Board Review and Comments

D. New Business

1. Administrative Findings/ Recommendation on Application for Change in Zoning District/ Use – Atkins Kroll seeks to amend Beach Road Zoning District Use and Requirement to allow for Automobile Sales & Service Use

E. Report from Zoning Administrator

1. Operations (Permitting and Enforcement)
2. Updates

F. Report from Legal Counsel

1. Nuisance Abatement and Blighted Properties Maintenance Act of 2018 Regulations – Legal Review

G. Executive Session

H. Announcements

I. Adjournment

/s/Henry S. Hofsneider, Chairman

Opinion

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

No, undocumented immigrants aren't more crime-prone. They are actually less so

From Donald Trump's vitriolic description of Mexican immigrants during his 2015 presidential campaign announcement ("They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists.") to Alabama Sen. Katie Britt's speech this month using a young woman's tragic murder to excoriate the Biden administration's border policies ("That could've been my daughter. It could've been yours."), Republicans today have weaponized a toxic trope with disturbing precedents in America.

Fact: Immigrants to the U.S.—including illegal immigrants—commit violent crime here at significantly lower (not higher) rates than native-born Americans.

That's not a justification for illegal immigration. But it should stand as an indictment of the truly ugly lie that Trump and his party are peddling right now in an effort to ride racial fear and xenophobia back into the White House.

After framing his first campaign from the start as an attack on immigrants as inherently dangerous, Trump has twisted that foul lie like a knife.

His initial campaign call for a "total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States" was as blunt an expression of outright religious bigotry as you'll find from a major American political figure in the modern era.

As president, his child-separation policy at the southern border stands alongside Japanese internment as an indefensible moral outrage. His more recent declaration that immigrants are "poisoning the blood of our country" was literally Hitlerian.

The shock that even many Republican office-holders initially expressed with Trump's ham-handed demagoguery regarding immigration (including legal immigration, which he effectively reduced by almost half as president) apparently has worn off. That was clear from Sen. Britt's March 7 State of the Union response speech on behalf of the GOP.

Most of the chatter regarding Britt's overwrought performance has focused on her grossly misleading account of the human trafficking of a migrant, which, it turns out, didn't happen in the U.S. nor during President Joe Biden's tenure.

But Britt's technically factual account of the murder of 22-year-old nursing student Laken Riley in Georgia in February was also misleading, in a more subtle and dangerous way.

The murder, allegedly by an undocumented Venezuelan migrant, was as tragic as any other.

But Britt's focus on the suspect as "one of the millions of illegal border crossers President Biden chose to release into our homeland" treats the incidental factor of his migrant status as if it's the whole point. And her seething exhortation that "innocent Americans are dying" was clearly meant to foster the impression there is an epidemic of violent migrant crime afoot.

That's the opposite of true. The fact that migrants who are in

See NO on Page 7



Free Hamas' Israeli and Gaza civilian hostages

We are in a world of trouble.

Wherever we look these days, all kinds of hell is happening. Or just happened. Or may soon happen.

For Gaza's 2 million-plus Palestinians, things are about as bad as things can get. Yet, a mind-boggling new poll just revealed most Gaza Palestinians are still clueless about who to blame for their misery that has shattered their lives.

Also: World leaders appear clueless about what, if anything, they can or should do about it.

A half century ago, Israel's erudite diplomat, Abba Eban, famously quipped that the Palestinians "never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity." But ever since Hamas so horrifically and brutally attacked Israeli families on Oct. 7, and fled with 253 hostages, it has been our world leaders who "never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity."

There is a world of blame that must be shared. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres chose to be bizarrely even-handed and understanding even while condemning Hamas' horrific Oct. 7 attack. Infuriatingly, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu can't bring himself to show even a shred of sympathy for Gaza's Palestinian civilians who have been trapped in war's cruelty just as Israel's families were in October.

For five months now, world leaders have missed this opportunity to accurately redefine the current hostage crisis by just calling it what it really is: a crisis of two peoples who are being held hostage by Hamas.

If this sounds a bit familiar, it's because it is. I wrote about it last December, urging our leaders to recast how they describe Gaza's reality. I urged our leaders to publicly discuss this hostage crisis as an effort to secure freedom for "not just one, but two different sets of hostages Hamas has simultaneously imprisoned in Gaza."

Namely:

-- Israelis Held Hostage by Hamas: In October, Hamas killed 1,200 in Israel and kidnapped 253 hostages, including elderly and disabled. Today, according to Israel, Hamas still holds 130 hostages, including 33 bodies of hostages who are believed dead.

-- Palestinians Used as Hamas' Human Shield Hostages: Long ago, Hamas began digging the tunnels under apartments, schools and hospitals—trapping hundreds of thousands of Palestinian civilians into unwittingly becoming human shield hostages.

And after their successful terrorist attacks in October, Hamas terrorists fled home to Gaza and hid beneath the civilians they were supposedly protecting. Hamas made sure Israel would have to kill thousands of innocent families under whom the terrorists cowered.

In fact, Hamas' cruel attack goaded the Israelis just so Netanyahu would massively retaliate. And Netanyahu fell into Hamas' trap.

By MARTIN SCHRAM

Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.



Hamas leaders knew masses of Gaza's civilians would be the first to die. Hamas didn't care. Hamas' weapons suppliers and trainers in Iran didn't care either. They just wanted to goad Israel into killing innocent civilians while the world watched, month after month.

Iran hoped the world would see Israel killing innocent Arabs—so world condemnation would halt Saudi Arabian and Gulf state plans to normalize relations with Israel. We'll see.

But Hamas and Iran got one gift they couldn't have predicted. Those videos of dead, wounded, starving and orphaned Gazans sparked waves of antisemitism throughout the United States and Europe. That return of the hater may be forever.

Despite my December proposal and plea, the UN's Guterres and other world leaders never got around to fully and truthfully pinning the blame for this crisis where it belonged—on Hamas. And their failure to lead has been devastating.

Sadly and sickeningly, 71% of Gaza's Palestinians believe Hamas was correct in attacking Israel on Oct. 7, according to a poll conducted this month by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research. That's way up from the group's December poll in which 57% approved of the Hamas attack.

Perhaps you remember there were a couple of weeks in which the world saw streaming reports of Hamas atrocities committed against families in Israel that are as innocent as the terrorists' own families back in Gaza. We saw and even some Gazans saw reports, photos and videos of Hamas terrorists killing parents in front of children, children in front of parents, babies in their cribs, violently raping women, mutilating bodies.

Remember, way back in October, the world saw a couple of weeks' news about Hamas' atrocities. And then five months of videos of Gaza's human shield civilians tragically suffering the heart-wrenching horrors of war.

Now this: 97% of Gaza and West Bank Palestinians who didn't see those October news videos about Hamas' atrocities believe the atrocities never even happened, that same poll showed. And a still huge 81% of those who saw the October news videos believe what they saw never happened.

Sometimes seeing is disbelieving.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed.

Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Empowering parents, transforming education: NMPASI's journey in inclusive education

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. is the state-designated protection and advocacy system whose mission is to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities in the CNMI. With this mission at the forefront, NMPASI has been actively involved in promoting inclusive education and striving to ensure equal access to quality education for students with disabilities. Through client representation, collaborative efforts, and a commitment to fostering diversity, NMPASI has assisted in creating an educational environment where every student can thrive. Let's take a closer look at NMPASI's role in accessible education initiatives, acknowledging both the challenges faced and the successes achieved in this important endeavor.

One of the key initiatives spearheaded by NMPASI is the hosting of educational workshops and learning sessions aimed at empowering parents and guardians of students with disabilities who are receiving services under special education. A notable event in this regard is the upcoming Parent Learning Session on Understanding your Child's Individualized Education Program, or IEP. Scheduled for April 11, 2024, from 8am to 1pm at the Sunflower Hall, Saipan World Resort, this session promises to provide invaluable insights and guidance to parents navigating the intricacies of the IEP process.

The Parent Learning Session will cover a range of topics essential for understanding and effectively advocating for students with disabilities within the educational system. Participants will gain insights into the fundamental aspects of an IEP, including its definition, implementation, and development. From tips on navigating the

IEP process to understanding the four key components of an IEP, attendees will be equipped with practical knowledge to support their child's educational journey.

One of the primary objectives of the Parent Learning Session is to empower parents to become active participants in the IEP process, ensuring that their child's unique needs and strengths are effectively addressed. By demystifying the complexities of IEPs and providing guidance on advocating for appropriate accommodations and support services, NMPASI aims to foster greater collaboration between parents, educators, and other stakeholders in the education of students with disabilities.

However, while NMPASI's efforts in promoting inclusive education are commendable, they are not without challenges. Limited resources, bureaucratic hurdles, and attitudinal barriers remain significant obstacles to ensuring equal access to education for students with disabilities. Addressing these challenges requires ongoing advocacy, collaboration, and a steadfast commitment to the principles of inclusivity and equity in education.

Despite the challenges, NMPASI has witnessed numerous success stories in its advocacy for accessible education. Through its advocacy efforts, students with disabilities have gained access to a wide range of educational opportunities, including specialized services, assistive technologies, and inclusive learning environments. Moreover, by empowering parents and caregivers with the knowledge and tools to advocate for their child's educational rights, NMPASI has helped foster a culture of inclusion and sup-

port within the educational community.

NMPASI's commitment to promoting inclusive education and ensuring equal access to education for students with disabilities remains a priority. Through initiatives like the upcoming Parent Learning Session on Understanding your Child's IEP, NMPASI continues to empower parents, guardians, and students with the knowledge and resources needed to navigate the educational landscape successfully. As we look toward the future, let us reaffirm our collective commitment to creating an educational system where every student, regardless of ability, has the opportunity to succeed and thrive.

To register for the Parent Learning Session or to get more information regarding NMPASI's programs and services, contact NMPASI at (670) 235-7273/74 or visit our website at www.nmpasi.org.



By TIAVA TO'OMATA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Tiava To'omata is a projects specialist at the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.

The fraud of accusing Trump of fraud

It's craziness, downright craziness, this New America we live in, old norms tossed away with anything acceptable if, as one example, increasingly cockamamie Democrats can thereby eradicate Donald Trump politically. I almost get it. He's bad news and always has been, but there are bad things in this world besides Trump, such as coming up with legally and morally amiss means to grab his wealth and squash his presidential reelection bid.

A nation in which officials abuse the legal system is a nation less reliant on law and order than tricks and disorder, which is what we got when the Democrat Letitia James, attorney general of New York, sued Trump for fraud in misleading lenders about how much his assets were worth. The thing is that the banks absolutely knew what they were doing, did not lose a penny and in fact made millions in their loans to this cherished head of a rejuvenating New York City real estate empire and upswing golf courses.

But none of that halted the attorney general's legal case exalted by a weird, obviously prejudiced, jury-replacing judge who decided Trump owed the government -- the government, not the banks -- \$454 million in quickly paid cash and the right of government agents to temporarily manage his businesses in return for a supposed kind of financial cheating that never cheated anyone out of anything.

Well, the consequence looked like financial disarray, campaign crashes, a business future far less shining than Trump and his sons had anticipated, and quite likely ego damage except that an appeals court said nope. It reduced the cash payment to \$175 million that Trump could easily pay while thus obtaining opportunities to wrestle again with James through appeal courts and maybe make her do the complaining this time out.

He has also just made a deal with his social media company apparently increasing his net worth to maybe \$5.6 billion from less than half of that, although good days are not exactly here again. He goes to trial April 15 for supposedly disguising \$130,000 in campaign money paid to a sex actress to keep her from doing what she does, talk about their years-old encounter.

Here is nothing new, of course. Here is the way the Democrats and others have dealt with Trump since he first rose from being an attention-grabbing billionaire to a populist demagogue with a

By JAY AMBROSE

Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.



reach no one dreamed of.

At the very start of his own presidency, there was this alleged Russian collusion causing overreaching, confused bureaucrats to disrupt Trump administrative actions for two years despite the fact that nothing like that existed except in the Hillary Clinton campaign. We had two congressional impeachment efforts, including one meant to evict Trump from office when he no longer held office. This ultra-obvious Democratic farce was intended to misuse a constitutional clause saying that those who were evicted could also be prohibited from running again and that assumed congressional literacy.

It's not that Trump is innocent of multiple and outrageous misdoings but that Democrats are determined to squash him even if it means hitting him with four trials and an absurd 91 felony indictments and thereby imprisoning democracy. The constant stalking of Trump, sometimes with unwarranted help from a suspect judiciary, has gone so far as to help ignite Republican imitation through investigations into President Joe Biden's son Hunter and his connections with foreign powers possibly willing to exchange big money for the Washington influence of his father as vice president.

One hope of the moment is that a third-party candidate might offer rescue in November, but one such possibility, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., recently said he wanted a professional football player as his vice presidential running mate and numerous members of the Kennedy family debased this frequently embarrassing relative. Kennedy won't even score a field goal.

NO

From page 6

the U.S. illegally have lower violent-crime rates than those born here is neither seriously disputed nor particularly surprising.

It's not surprising because, by definition, foreign nationals living in America without legal immigrant status have every incentive to stay out of trouble and avoid attracting the attention of authorities.

Among the many academic studies that have confirmed this phenomenon, one of the strongest was conducted by the libertarian Cato Institute in 2019 and focused on Texas, which has among the highest populations of both documented and undocumented immigrants.

That study found that documented immigrants—who have followed the rules to get here and who know that a criminal conviction could mean deportation—were 61% less likely than native-born Americans to be convicted of a homicide. These are the people you want living next door.

But even undocumented migrants in Texas, the study found, were 26% less likely than native-born Americans to be convicted of homicide. Convictions for other serious crimes followed similar patterns.

"Crime, at least in the state of Texas, is a domestically produced problem and not an imported one," states the study, noting that "Texas is one of the states where we would expect higher illegal immigrant crime rates if they were an especially crime-prone subpopulation."

"Illegal immigration is a serious public policy problem in the United States," the study concludes, "but it is not a problem because it increases the crime rate."

Illegal immigration is, indeed, a serious issue that must be addressed. The Biden administration tried to do that recently with bipartisan border reform legislation that gave immigration hardliners virtually everything they have sought on the issue lately—and House Republicans killed it at Trump's command because he knows the border crisis is more useful to him politically than a solution.

That's politics. But what Trump and his GOP enablers are doing to foster panic over an immigrant crime wave that doesn't exist is worse than that.

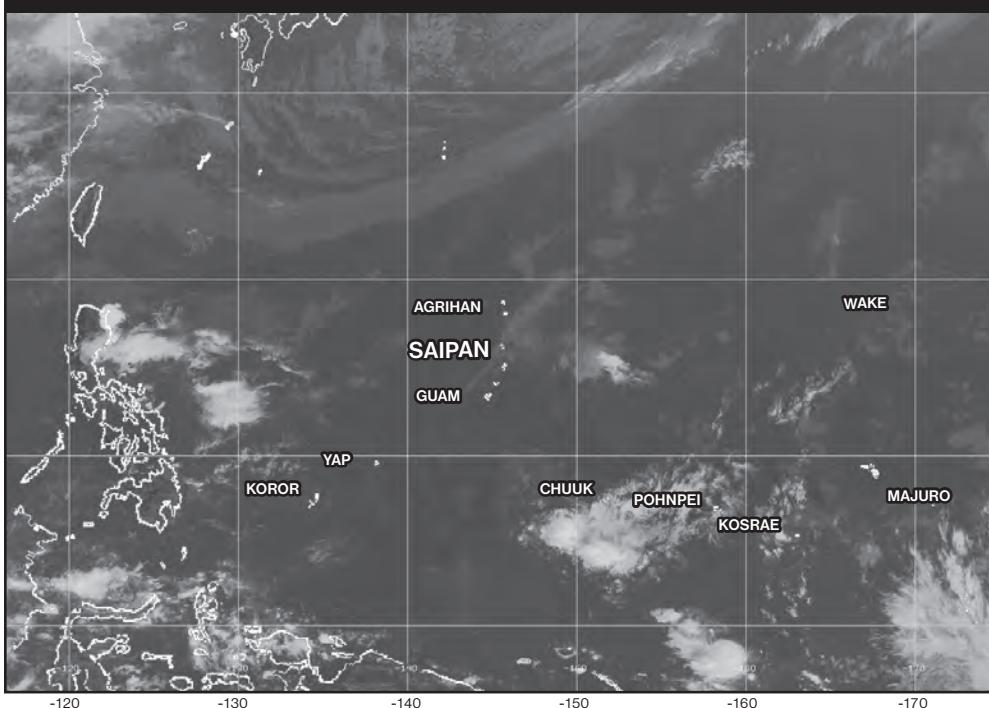
Virtually every surge of immigration in America's history has been met with some degree of fear, prejudice and the false vilification of migrants as criminals. That is, perhaps, a sadly inherent element of human nature. But when a presidential candidate and his entire party build their electoral case around that putrid lie, it must be relentlessly called out.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
86 76°	85 76°	85 76°	85 76°	85 76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 3:53 AM WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A few showers continue to cross the region this morning, similar to the past several days. Seas are currently in the 5 to 7 foot range.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA		
Guam and Rota	Fair	90° / 79°
Palau	Light Rain Shower	87° / 80°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 80°
Chuuk	Cloudy	89° / 81°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	88° / 79°
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 82°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:15 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:14 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Monday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:49 AM	8:51 PM
Friday	-	8:28 AM	9:44 PM
Saturday	-	9:12 AM	10:39 PM
Sunday	-	10:00 AM	11:37 PM
Monday	-	10:55 AM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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AROUND THE GLOBE		
Auckland	Fair/Wind	75° / 61°
Beijing	Light Rain Shower	65° / 42°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	85° / 67°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	80° / 72°
London	Mostly Cloudy	57° / 42°
Los Angeles	Clear	67° / 52°
Manila	Fair	92° / 82°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	71° / 58°
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	79° / 73°
New York	Cloudy	50° / 39°
Osaka	Fair	59° / 45°
Paris	Cloudy	55° / 43°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	57° / 39°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	61° / 55°
Salem	Cloudy	80° / 63°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	60° / 49°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	58° / 36°
Tokyo	Sunny	58° / 42°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	60° / 40°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
3:24 AM	Low Tide	0.77
8:55 AM	High Tide	1.74
3:46 PM	Low Tide	0.14
10:11 PM	High Tide	1.69

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2024

DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN					
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily				
UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7				
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA189	00:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6				
UA193	7:50PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau	PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily				
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily	UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau				
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-GUAM					
7C3403/2305	4:40AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA189/174	00:40AM	8:45AM+1	3, 6 via Guam				
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:40PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam				
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	10:55PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam				
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
TW308	2:15AM	6:10AM	Daily	7C3462	08:00AM	1:30PM	Daily Feb 7-16 only				
7C3403	4:40AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily				
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily	TW307	7:45PM	1:15AM+1	Daily				
				7C3404	10:15PM	3:35AM+1	Daily				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, TW'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA						ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily	3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily	3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
						3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM						GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday	4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN						TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS</		

‘Where our fathers once fought, our families find peace’

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystral_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

It was a solemn moment as three groups joined in solidarity to not only commemorate the sacrifices and battles of World War II, but more importantly, to recognize 80 years of peace in the Pacific during a proclamation signing last Friday on the once war-torn beaches of Achugao.

The proclamation signing, held by the beaches of Aqua Resort Club, recognized 80 years of peace in the CNMI since the Battles of Saipan and Tinian that took place from June to July 1944, during the Pacific Theater of World War II. The signing on Friday was hosted by the Battle of Saipan and Tinian Committee under the Saipan Mayor’s Office, and was joined by many dignitaries, including Gov. Arnold I Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, members of the 23rd CNMI Legislature, and the families of World War II veterans.

It was a beautiful moment as the indigenous people of Saipan gathered with their American and Japanese brothers and sisters to mark a historical milestone.

Several U.S. veterans and relatives of the World War II veterans who came as part of the Stephen Ambrose Group were present for the signing.

Keynote speaker Chris Anderson of the Stephen Ambrose Group said he’s been making these tours for years with veterans and families of veterans, and highlighted the importance to keep remembering the stories and history.

“[The veterans] would share their stories, and they would come back, and they would talk, and they would tell stories, and they would share their stories. And we could all listen and learn. But it was easy because we had them there to remind us. And now, unfortunately, it’s harder and harder for veterans of that engagement to come back and to tell us and remind us of their sacrifices and what they accomplished and what they endured. And since they have gone, it’s going to fall on all of us,” Anderson said.

He said the CNMI has in a way become a second home to him. “I’ve been coming to the Marianas...to talk about this battle for many, many, many years. I always love coming back. Just today, when I took my group to Tinian, one of the first things that happened is one of the people there on the island gave me a big hug and...it was a really wonderful feeling.

“I always enjoy coming

back, and I love bringing guests here who maybe know little or nothing about what happened here, to not only take them to the places where these events happened, but also to have them meet all the wonderful people here and have them share their stories and to remind them that not only did armies fight here, but civilians endured the war here. And I hope that my guests, when they leave, take that away with them as well, that it wasn’t just about the Marines that landed here or the Army or the Navy or anything else, but also the civilians that endured and contributed so much to what happened,” he added.

He also emphasized the importance of keeping events like these alive. “The veterans can’t travel like they used to. It’s up to you here on Saipan and Tinian to keep this alive. And you’re already doing a great job, and I want to thank you for providing such a wonderful environment for us to come back and bring folks to. But I know that it’s going to be up to you and your efforts. And when I come and I see events like this and I meet more of you, I think the legacy of that battle and these events are in really good hands. You guys are doing an absolutely fantastic job. And speaking as somebody who brings tour groups back here all the time, but also as an individual, I thank you for that. If you didn’t do what you do, there wouldn’t be anything here and there wouldn’t be any stories to tell,” he said.

Gordan Marciano, who is the committee chair of the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Saipan and Tinian, said he has he’s worked on the different commemorations of the Battle of Saipan and Tinian and he’d seen that events like these bring together these men and women and bring them peace.

“They bring closure. They bring peace. They bring together our Japanese and our American brothers and sisters to have peace, and that’s what I take away from working with them,” he said.

Marciano shared that more tour groups of veterans from both Japan and the United States will be on island this week and in coming weeks.

“Veteran tour groups and veterans of World War II families are always making the time to come and revisit where their families have fought and died,” he said.

He also thanked his fellow partners in the 80th Anniversary Community, the Office of the Mayor of Saipan, the Veterans Affairs Office, the Mar-

ianas Visitors Authority, and the American Memorial Park for their support.

“If we can have peace with the Japanese and Americans for the past 80 years, then I think the whole world should learn from the Pacific,” he added.

Damien Burnett, a son of a World War II Marine veteran, said his father fought in the Pacific theater, and served in the U.S. Navy in the Philippine Sea. He shared that it was wonderful to experience

being so close to where his father served and being on Saipan and Tinian.

“It’s really interesting to really be in the place where history happened. ...This is my first time. First time to Saipan. You have a beautiful country, beautiful people. I love being here,” he said.

He acknowledged that Japan and the United States were adversaries during World War II, but many things have now changed.

“There are some Japanese

people here, and this event is held so we can commemorate that peace we have together. And it really goes to show the attitude of the current people versus the attitude of the people who fought in the war. ...I know what happened. I know the history, but Japan is a great ally of ours now. ...So let’s not hold on to that pain from 80 years ago. Acknowledge it exists. Understand why it happened, but we don’t need to hold on to it,” he said.

In his remarks, Saipan

Mayor Ramon Blas “RB” Camacho acknowledged the presence of the Japanese, Americans, and Chamorro and Carolinians at the event and said, “Today, we stand united in our commitment to peace. The bonds that once divided us have been replaced by the respect and love we have for each other. Although we were once torn apart by war, it’s time to reflect on the past, honor those who came before us, and celebrate the peace we enjoy today.”



NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
SPP LLC dba
Canna Saipan Retail

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. SPP LLC dba Canna Saipan Retail proposes to utilize **one (1)** unit measuring **44' 8" (L) x 15' 3" (W)** on the ground floor of an existing three-story building for its “Cannabis Retail” Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 009 D 67 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: April 4, 2024
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio
Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, April 3, 2024. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, at 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/
Henry S. Hofsneider, Chairman



NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
LK Corporation
dba Gualo Rai Guest House

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. LK Corporation dba Gualo Rai Guest House proposes to utilize **Three (3)** units measuring **66' 3" (L) x 23' 2" (W)** on the 2nd floor of an existing two-story building for its “Hotel/Motel/Guest House- Guest House” Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 1877-1-3 in the village of Gualo Rai. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: April 4, 2024
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio
Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, April 3, 2024. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, at 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/
Henry S. Hofsneider, Chairman



NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Da Green Door

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Da Green Door proposes to develop **Two (2)** ocean freight shipping containers measuring **42' .10" (L) x 20' (W) x 10' .5" (H)** for its “Cannabis Retail” Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 008 D 17 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: April 4, 2024
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio
Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, April 3, 2024. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, at 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/
Henry S. Hofsneider, Chairman



NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
SPP LLC dba Canna
Saipan Lounge

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. SPP LLC dba Canna Saipan Lounge proposes to utilize **one (1)** unit on the ground floor of an existing three-story building measuring **44' 8" (L) x 14' 11" (W)** for its “Cannabis Lounge” Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 009 D 67 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: April 4, 2024
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio
Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, April 3, 2024. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, at 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

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/s/
Henry S. Hofsneider, Chairman

Business

Saipan Shoes expands to twice its size

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

Saipan Shoes has now expanded to twice the size of its original store and that means more space for owner Lydia Li to display not only shoes but new fashion items.

"Expanding means more selection to meet customers' needs for shoes and other fashion items. It's more

space for a better shopping experience for our customers," she said.

Li said they expanded to the former space of Life in Son Fellowship last March 1 and the increase in floor space means customers have more freedom to move around and Saipan Shoes is now able to stock more items.

"With limited space before, customers found it to be difficult to locate their desired items. With the additional space, items are much better sorted and marked. Of course, it's much easier to move around as well," she said.

Another added bonus is that Li has brought in over 100 new styles of shoes due to the expansion and that includes more fashion items as well, especially for women.

"We have built an inventory of many fashion items other than shoes, like women's underwear, bras, and shapewears. I really hope our new items for women will make our woman customers very happy," she said.

As for embarking on the expansion amidst a still uncertain economy not fully recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic and the



MARK RABAGO

Saipan Shoes is located across the U.S. District Court for the NMI at the corner of Middle Road and Gualo Rai Road in Gualo Rai.



MARK RABAGO

Saipan Shoes expanded to the former space of Life in Son Fellowship last March 1.



MARK RABAGO

Saipan Shoes brought in over 100 new styles of shoes due to the expansion and that includes more fashion items as well, especially for women.

lack of tourists, which is the CNMI's only economic driver, Li acknowledged that the

business climate is challenging but she's always willing to roll the dice.

"We operate in a challenging business environment. We expanded to attract more customers. Through better customer satisfaction, we hope we can expand the business as well. We plan to have a promotion in the next two weeks to highlight the new inventory," she said.

Aside from selling a gamut of men's and women's shoe styles ranging from dress shoes and safety shoes to running shoes, sports shoes, hiking shoes, and sandals and children's shoes, Saipan Shoes also sells socks, fashion jewelry, hip bags, baby clothes, shirts for families, and trinkets or small items.

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on April 22, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 7th day of March, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary	Opening Date	Closing Date
2024-010	CDBG-DR Planning & Support Program Manager (1-Position)	UNGRADED \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00 Per annum	March 27, 2024	April 11, 2024 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhgov.net and www.cnmic-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary	Opening Date	Closing Date
2024-008	CDBG-DR Compliance Specialist (1-Position) Re-Announcement	UNGRADED \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00 Per annum	JVA CANCELLED 03/18/2024	
2024-009	CDBG-DR Accountant (1-Position) Re-Announcement	UNGRADED \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00 Per annum	March 15, 2024	March 30, 2024 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhgov.net and www.cnmic-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhgov.net.

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/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP24-OPD/MOTA-42400072

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 23, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"ASSESSMENT, DESIGN AND PERMITTING OF THE TINIAN (PUNTAN DIABLO) SMALL COMMUNITY EXEMPT LANDFILL (SCEL)"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPTOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE MADE TO THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BY APRIL 12, 2024, VIA EMAIL AT planning@opd.gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ **ELIZABETH BALAJADIA**
ACTING DIRECTOR, OPD

/s/ **GERALDINE T. CRUZ**
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB24-DPW/ED-42400076

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 11, 2024 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR DPW, ENERGY DIVISION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPTOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ENERGY DIVISION BY APRIL 4, 2024, TO MR. VINCENT ATTAAO VIA EMAIL AT v.attao@cnmienergy.gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ **THELMA B. INOS**
DIRECTOR, DPW-ENERGY DIVISION

/s/ **GERALDINE T. CRUZ**
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

World

'Heroes' scrambled to stop traffic before Baltimore bridge collapsed

BALTIMORE (AP)—It was the middle of the night when a dispatcher's 12-second warning crackled over the radio: » **Construction crew feared dead** A massive cargo ship had lost its steering capabilities and was heading toward the Francis Scott Key Bridge.

Within about 90 seconds, police officers responded that they had managed to stop vehicle traffic over the bridge in both directions. One said he was about to drive onto the bridge to alert a construction crew.

But it was too late. Lifeless

and laden with huge containers, the vessel smashed into a support pillar.

"The whole bridge just fell down," a frantic officer said.

"Start, start whoever, everybody ... the whole bridge just collapsed."

When the shipping vessel Dali slammed into the pillar around 1:30 a.m. Tuesday, it caused a long span of the bridge, a key cog in the region's transportation infrastructure, to crumple into the Patapsco River. Six people



into or out of ports in restricted waters with limited room to maneuver is "one of the most technically challenging and demanding things that we do."

"So there really is few things that are scarier than a loss of power in restricted waters," he said. And when a ship loses propulsion and steering, "then it's really at the mercy of the wind and the current."

Video showed the ship moving at what Gov. Wes Moore said was about 9 mph (15 kph) toward the 1.6-mile (2.6-kilometer) bridge. There still was traffic moving across the span, and some vehicles appeared to escape with only seconds to spare. The collision caused the span to break and fall into the water within seconds, and jagged remnants could be seen jutting up from the water later in the day.

Police said there is no evidence that anyone went into the water other than the workers, though they had not discounted the possibility.

A senior executive at the company that employed the crew, Brawner Builders, said they were working in the middle of the bridge when it came down.

A Coast Guard cutter passes a cargo ship that is stuck under the part of the structure of the Francis Scott Key Bridge after the ship hit the bridge Tuesday, March 26, 2024, in Baltimore, Md.

are presumed dead, and the loss of the bridge is expected to snarl commuter traffic and disrupt a vital shipping port.

At least eight people went into the water. Two survived but the other six, all identified as part of a construction crew that had been filling potholes on the bridge, were missing. A search

for their bodies was to resume Wednesday morning.

Among the missing were people from Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, according to diplomats from those countries. The Honduran man was identified as Maynor Yassir Suazo Sandova.

Federal and state officials

said the incident appeared to be an accident. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating, and ship traffic entering and leaving the Port of Baltimore was suspended indefinitely.

Capt. Michael Burns Jr. of the Maritime Center for Responsible Energy said bringing a ship

WORLD BRIEFS

Israel and Hamas dig in as pressure builds for a cease-fire in Gaza

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday blasted a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for a Gaza cease-fire that his country's top ally, the United States, chose not to block. He said the resolution had emboldened Hamas and he vowed to press ahead with the war. As the war grinds through a sixth month, both Israel and Hamas have rejected cease-fire efforts, each insisting its version of victory is within reach. The passage of the U.N. resolution has also escalated tensions between the U.S. and Israel over the conduct of the war. Netanyahu has said Israel can only achieve its aims of dismantling Hamas and returning scores of hostages if it expands its ground offensive to the southern city of Rafah, where over half of Gaza's population has sought refuge, many in crowded tent camps. The U.S. has said a major assault on Rafah would be a mistake. Hamas says it will hold onto the hostages until Israel agrees to a more permanent cease-fire, withdraws its forces from Gaza and releases hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, including top militants. It said late Monday that it rejected a recent proposal that fell short of those demands—which, if fulfilled, would allow it to claim an extremely costly victory. Netanyahu said in a statement that the announcement "proved clearly that Hamas is not interested in continuing negotiations toward a deal and served as unfortunate testimony to the damage of the Security Council decision."

The winless lottery streak is over. Someone has won the \$1.12 billion Mega Millions jackpot

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Someone in New Jersey overcame the odds Tuesday night and won the \$1.12 billion Mega

Millions jackpot, breaking a winless streak that dated to last December. The numbers drawn were: 7, 11, 22, 29, 38 and 4. The winning ticket was sold in New Jersey, according to the Mega Millions website. Until the latest drawing, no one had matched all six numbers and won the Mega Millions jackpot since Dec. 8. That amounted to 30 straight drawings without a big winner. It's tough to win the Mega Millions jackpot because the odds are so long, at 1 in 302.6 million. The prize is the 8th largest in U.S. lottery history.

Ukrainian navy says a third of Russian warships in the Black Sea have been destroyed or disabled

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukraine has sunk or disabled a third of all Russian warships in the Black Sea in just over two years of war, the navy spokesman said Tuesday, a heavy blow to Moscow's military capability. Ukraine's Navy spokesman Dmytro Pletenichuk told The Associated Press that the latest strike on Saturday night hit the Russian amphibious landing ship Kostiantyn Olshansky that was resting in dock in Sevastopol in Russia-occupied Crimea. The ship was part of the Ukrainian navy before Russia captured it while annexing the Black Sea peninsula in 2014. Pletenichuk has previously announced that two other landing ships of the same type, Azov and Yamal, also were damaged in Saturday's strike along with the Ivan Khurs intelligence ship. He told the AP that the weekend attack, which was launched with Ukraine-built Neptune missiles, also hit Sevastopol port facilities and an oil depot. Russian authorities reported a massive Ukrainian attack on Sevastopol over the weekend but didn't acknowledge any damage to the fleet.

The winless lottery streak is over. Someone has won the \$1.12 billion Mega Millions jackpot

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Life & Style

Sean 'Diddy' Combs' lawyer says raids of rapper's homes were 'excessive'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sean "Diddy" Combs' lawyer said Tuesday that the searches of the rapper's Los Angeles and Miami properties by federal authorities in a sex trafficking investigation were "a gross use of military-level force" and that Combs is "innocent and will continue to fight" to clear his name.

It's the first public statement from the music mogul's team since Monday's raids of his homes by Homeland Security Investigations agents.

"Yesterday, there was a gross overuse of military-level force as search warrants were executed at Mr. Combs' residence,"

said the statement from attorney Aaron Dyer. "There is no excuse for the excessive show of force and hostility exhibited by authorities or the way his children and employees were treated."

The searches were part of an ongoing sex trafficking investigation by federal authorities in New York, two law enforcement officials told The Associated Press. The officials were not authorized to publicly discuss details of the investigation and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

Combs was not detained and spoke to authorities, and neither he nor any family members were arrested, nor has their travel been restricted, according to Dyer's statement.



Dyer said the "unprecedented ambush" has led to a "premature rush to judgment of Mr. Combs and is nothing more than a witch hunt based on meritless accusations made in civil lawsuits."

"There has been no finding of criminal or civil liability with any of these allegations," Dyer said. "Mr. Combs is innocent and will continue to fight every single

day to clear his name."

Combs' sons, Justin and Christian "King" Combs, were handcuffed during the raid at their father's residence in Los Angeles. King, 25, is a music artist whose song "Can't Stop Won't Stop" with Kodak Black topped Billboard's Mainstream R&B Hip-Hop charts in 2022.

Law enforcement conducted the raid Monday at Combs' multimillion-dollar mansion in the affluent Holmby Hills neighborhood in Los Angeles and his Miami waterfront home. Along with a heavy presence of officers, command trucks were parked outside both properties.

with male prostitutes while he filmed them.

In February, a music producer filed a lawsuit alleging Combs coerced him to solicit prostitutes and pressured him to have sex with them.

Another of Combs' accusers was a woman who said the rap producer raped her two decades ago when she was 17.

Combs and his attorneys have denied all of the lawsuits' allegations.

NBC cuts ties with former RNC head Ronna McDaniel

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC News cut ties Tuesday with former Republican National Committee chief Ronna McDaniel less than a week after hiring her as an on-air political contributor, a decision that followed a furious protest by some of its journalists and commentators.

In announcing the decision in a memo, NBC Universal News Group Chairman Cesar Conde apologized to staff members who felt let down by the hire, acknowledging he had signed off on it.



"No organization, particularly a newsroom, can succeed unless it is cohesive and aligned. Over the last few days, it has become clear that this appointment undermines that goal," Conde said. But he said the network remained committed to centering "voices that represent different parts of the political spectrum."

There was no immediate comment from McDaniel, who stepped down as RNC leader just over two weeks ago. She found out she lost her

job through media reports, not from NBC directly, said a person close to her who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak about it publicly.

QUICK CHANGE OF HEART

NBC announced Friday that McDaniel would contribute commentary across network platforms. It said it wanted the perspective of someone with inside knowledge about the Republican Party and former President Donald Trump heading into the 2024 election, in which Trump is seeking a second term.

The response from journalists and others within the network was swift—and public. Former "Meet the Press" moderator Chuck Todd criticized his bosses on the air Sunday for the hire, saying he didn't know what to believe from her after she supported former President Donald Trump in "gaslighting" and "character assassination" following the 2020 election.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

The British Museum is suing a former curator it says stole 1,800 items and tried to sell them

LONDON (AP)—The British Museum went to court Tuesday against a former curator alleged to have stolen hundreds of artifacts from its collections and offered them for sale online. The museum is suing Peter Higgs, who was fired in July 2023 after more than 1,800 items were discovered to be missing. Lawyers for the museum say Higgs "abused his position of trust" to steal ancient gems, gold jewelry and other pieces from storerooms over the course of a decade. High Court judge Heather Williams ordered Higgs to list or return any items in his possession within four weeks. She also ordered the disclosure of his eBay and PayPal records. The museum says it has recovered 356 of the missing items so far, and hopes to get more back. "The items that have been stolen from the museum

are of cultural and historical significance," museum lawyer Daniel Burgess said in written legal arguments.

Bruce Springsteen becomes first international songwriter made a fellow of Britain's Ivors Academy

LONDON (AP)—Bruce Springsteen is the first international songwriter to be named a fellow of The Ivors Academy, the U.K.'s professional association of music creators. The American icon was announced as the next recipient of the 80-year old Academy's highest honor Tuesday, in recognition of the impact his career has had on the cultural landscape of the U.K. Over the last half century, the "Born to Run" musician has sold more than 140 million records worldwide—from his 1973 debut "Greetings from Asbury Park, NJ" to his most recent studio album "Only the Strong Survive" in 2022—with a liberal dusting of top honors

along the way, including 20 Grammys, an Oscar and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Springsteen, 74, said he was proud of the honor in a statement released by the academy. "In addition to recognizing my songwriting, the award stands as a tribute to the fans and friends who have supported me and my work for the last fifty years. This entire country has made me feel welcome every step of the way, and for this, I will always remain deeply appreciative."

After 'Wonka' and 'Dune,' Timothée Chalamet signs first look deal with Warner Bros.

Following the success of "Wonka" and the "Dune" movies, Warner Bros. is staying in the Timothée Chalamet business. The star signed a first look deal with the studio to collaborate on future projects as an actor and producer, Warner Bros. said Tuesday. This doesn't mean that Chalamet can only make movies with Warner Bros., just that

the studio is entitled to right of first refusal. The terms of the deal were not released, but it is a "multi-year" agreement. Warner Bros. Motion Picture Group co-chairs and CEO's Mike De Luca and Pam Abdy said in a statement that they've admired his "commitment to his craft" and his "unwavering dedication to give 100% of his time and attention to every project he has made." Chalamet, in a statement, said of De Luca and Abdy: "These are studio heads who believe in real movie making, and I'm so grateful for their support as an actor, producer and collaborator. This partnership feels like a natural next step. Let's go!" The 28-year-old recently became the first star in over four decades to be in two top-grossing films released within eight months of each other with "Dune: Part Two," which has a running box office total of \$575.5 million, and "Wonka," which made over \$632 million globally. (AP)

Longtime friendship entails frequent visits from couple

DEAR ABBY: My husband is an outdoor enthusiast and has a group of guys he goes hunting with every year. One of them has started coming out west to vacation at our house twice a year and now has followed us to our warm-weather winter home.

When he stays at our place, we fix all the meals and he uses our washer, dryer and detergent for several loads of laundry each time. He's a longtime friend and brings his spouse, with whom I get along well. But as time goes on, their visits are becoming more frequent and longer in length.

Always being the host and entertaining makes me anxious. My husband can't seem to understand what my issue is when I try to talk with him about it, but I feel that seeing these folks a couple times a year is more than enough to keep the friendship going. How can I get my husband to understand my side without ruining the friendship?

HOSTED OUT

DEAR HOSTED OUT: These people may be friends, but your hospitality is being taken advantage of. Try once more to explain to your husband that their visits are happening too often. However, if he doesn't accept it, then arrange a vacation for yourself the next time they are expected to arrive. By this I mean, pack a bag and go to a hotel.

Perhaps, when your husband has to assume all the responsibility for these freeloading friends, he will see the light. I can't believe the wife would let you do all the work by yourself. How lazy and insensitive of her not to volunteer.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My sister "Maggie" has turned into one of those "crazy cat ladies." We have been encouraging her to move into assisted living, but she says she'd rather be dead than give up her cats. When we visit her, we bring along air freshener. Maggie has gone nose-blind to the smell and argues her house does not stink. My wife will not walk in until after I have sprayed the house.

Among Maggie's other issues: Her children have abandoned her. We had to hire people to help her out because no one in her son's family would take the job. When my mother got sick, my wife and I stepped up and gave her 24/7 care. Taking care of my sister was not part of my retirement plan. Her retired son and his family not doing their part has caused a rift between us. Please advise.

ABOVE & BEYOND IN THE SOUTH

DEAR A & B: What a caring and responsible brother you are. If there are no alternatives, it appears you may be taking care of Maggie until her passing. That her son has shirked

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

his responsibility is disgraceful. (It may also be elder abuse.)

Your sister may be unaware of the fact that some assisted living places DO allow residents to have pets. Maggie might be more amenable to moving if you can help her find one. However, if that isn't feasible, consider discussing this with an attorney as well as adult protective services.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

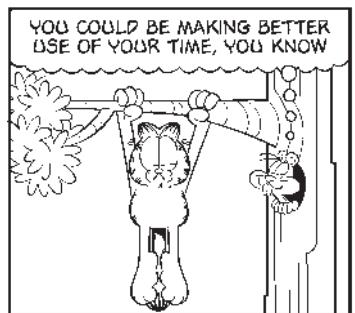
Calvin and Hobbes



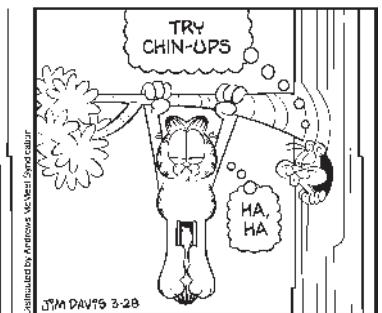
By Bill Waterson



Garfield®



By Jim Davis



Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

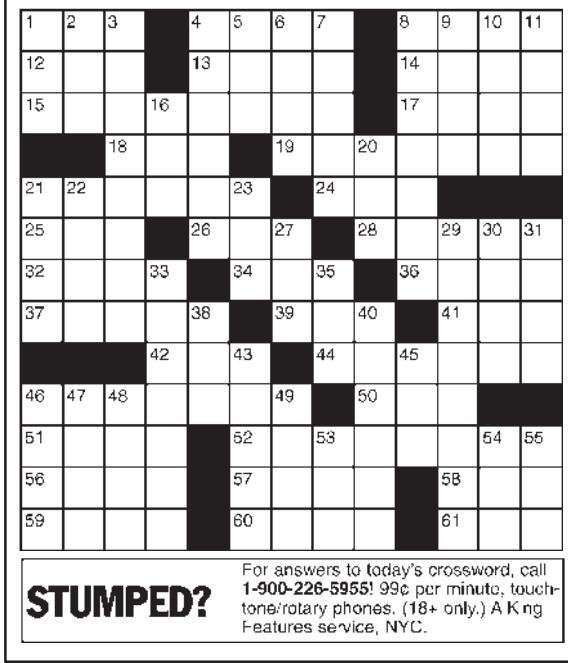


CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	41	Science room	2	"The Crying Game"	22	"Doing my best"	
1	Joan of	42	Little louse	23	Devious	27	High tennis shot
4	Incite	44	Peter out	29	Pizzeria	30	Human rights lawyer
8	Paella ingredient	46	Paving material	31	menu items	32	Williams
12	Museum-funding org.	50	Cow's greeting	33	Innocent one	34	great
13	"Como — used?"	51	Oodles	35	"My Way"	35	QUESTIONABLE SCIENCE
14	Perry's creator	52	Hot, in Spanish	36	singer	37	RIGHT? I'M GOING TO SPENCER'S
15	Food label info	56	Flag feature	37	Klutz	38	FOR THE NIGHT
17	Hammer or sickle	57	Lena of "Chocolate"	38	Succor	39	SPENCER'S
18	Compass dir.	58	Ram's mate	40	Comic's skill	40	WICH WILL IT BE?
19	Short races	59	Caffeine-rich nut	41	Coagulate	41	FRIED CHICKEN, FRIED STRAK, FRIED MEATBALLS
21	Sheets, pillow-cases, etc.	60	Punch	42	Gun the engine	42	WICH WILL IT BE?
24	Hankering	61	Junior	43	Orange Muppet	43	WICH WILL IT BE?
25	Takeoff stat	DOWN	1	44	Halloween	44	WICH WILL IT BE?
26	Completely	Man-dela's	2	45	een cover-up	45	WICH WILL IT BE?
28	Word list, for short	2	org.	46	Sax range	46	WICH WILL IT BE?
32	401(k) relatives	21	Maui	47	48	47	WICH WILL IT BE?
34	"— -hooh!"	21	garlands	48	Furnace fuel	48	WICH WILL IT BE?
36	Tibetan monk	22		49	Shopping complex	49	WICH WILL IT BE?
37	Lebanon's neighbor	23		50	53	50	WICH WILL IT BE?
39	Night flier	24		51	Lucy of "Kill Bill"	51	WICH WILL IT BE?
		25		52	Tango team	52	WICH WILL IT BE?
		26		53	Poetic dusk	53	WICH WILL IT BE?
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Yesterday's answer 3-28



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lady Gaga, 38; Julia Stiles, 43; Vince Vaughn, 54; Reba McEntire, 69.

Happy Birthday: Taking the time to listen will lead to benefits. Decide what you want to accomplish and pick a quiet spot to work. Turn the projects you pursue this year into masterpieces. Step out of the spotlight and you'll find the quickest path to make things happen. Make changes and turn an idea into an opportunity. Your numbers are 4, 11, 20, 28, 32, 37, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Join groups that offer support, information, and cost-effective and easily adjusted alternatives. Use your power of persuasion to convince those close to you to join in and be supportive. A personal or physical change will point you in a healthy direction. **★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Search for a prospect that touches you emotionally. If your heart is motivated, don't hesitate to initiate changes that motivate you to follow through with your plans. Be bold and live life your way, and you will attract love and support. Romance is in the stars. **★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Feel the tug of war, recognize the dynamics of your situation and look for the best alternative. A quiet, straightforward approach is encouraged if you want to navigate your way through roadblocks. **★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Minimize your discussions until you are sure you can win the debate. Put your energy into personal gains, increasing awareness and a physical improvement that fortifies your confidence.

Connect with people who can contribute to your success or offer inside information that reinforces your beliefs. Romance is favored. **★★★★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Put impulse aside and think matters through. Choose to do your due diligence and to map out a foolproof plan before you go public. An expert or insightful person you meet will recognize, add to and join your fight to set standards and make progress. **★★**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll get the go-ahead if you address issues and make your voice heard. A change of plans will work in your favor. Partnerships will offer opportunities to expand ideas and defeat anyone who chooses to oppose you. **★★★★**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take the initiative and make the first move. Your gesture will encourage a response and help you understand both sides of an issue.

Price out the cost and time you need to forfeit to get what you want, and reset your schedule and budget to ensure success. **★★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Welcome change; decide what happens next. Give your inner light a chance to shine, touch people's lives and enrich the world around you. Focus on giving back, and satisfaction and gratification will be yours. Peace and love are heading your way. **★★**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):

Don't count on help or share too much information about what you intend to do next. Fly under the radar and get as much done as possible before someone steps in and tries to bulldoze your plans. Don't use force when anonymity is what you need. **★★**

EUGENIA LAST



THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Adjust your surroundings to suit your lifestyle. Consider what and who makes you happy, and wait to quit until you secure your position and are able to fulfill your passion. Love, romance and personal growth are apparent. Follow your heart and explore the possibilities. **★★★★**



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take a closer look before you commit to something. Familiarize yourself with the physical and emotional costs before you proceed. Don't let anyone pressure you into something that benefits them more than you. **★★**



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stop second-guessing and start believing in yourself. An energetic approach to your goal won't disappoint. Look at the prospects, create opportunities and seek out those you know can contribute to join your team. You have plenty to gain if you take control. **★★★★★**

Birthday Baby: You are endearing, grateful and empathetic. You are unique and influential.



•: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. **★★**: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. **★★★**: Focus and you'll reach your goals. **★★★★**: Aim high; start new projects. **★★★★★**: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SCOTCHGARD

Solution: 7 letters

C	U	R	T	A	I	N	S	E	C	A	F	R	U	S
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T	Q	N	A	I	Y	X	O	E	L	B	T	N	P	E
H	U	S	E	N	L	R	S	L	U	N	G	U	O	T
S	I	S	L	N	U	M	I	R	O	L	L	B	T	S
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Lakers beat Bucks in 2OT behind Reeves' triple-double



MILWAUKEE (AP)—Staring at a double-digit deficit midway through the fourth quarter without LeBron James available, Austin Reaves and the Los Angeles Lakers faced a clear choice.

"It was one of those moments that you could either flip the page to tomorrow, get ready for that game or you could go out and compete 110% and give yourself an opportunity or at least try to give yourself an opportunity to get back in the game," Reaves said.

The Lakers chose the latter option and delivered a comeback for the ages.

Reaves had his second career triple-double and made a tiebreaking 3-pointer with 38.6 seconds left in the second overtime as the Lakers overcame James' absence and rallied to beat the Milwaukee Bucks 128-124 on Tuesday night.

Reaves had 29 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists in 47 minutes as the Lakers opened a six-game trip by winning their fourth straight despite trailing by 19 points in the fourth quarter and never leading in regulation. Anthony Davis provided 34 points and 23 rebounds while playing 52 minutes despite dealing with a knee problem late in the game.

"A 20-point lead in this league now, it's nothing because of the way the offense is right now in the league, so high-powered that you can wipe away a lead pretty fast," Davis said.



Los Angeles Lakers' Austin Reaves reacts after making a three pointer during the second overtime of an NBA basketball game against the Milwaukee Bucks Tuesday, March 26, 2024, in Milwaukee.

The Lakers won't have much time to celebrate their stunning comeback. They're playing again Wednesday at Memphis.

Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo had 29 points, a season-high 21 rebounds and 11 assists for his ninth triple-double of the season. Damian Lillard scored 27 but shot 9 of 29. Malik Beasley added 21.

James had an issue with his left ankle that prevented him from being available as the Lakers opened a six-game trip. James also had missed the Lakers' 123-122 victory over the Bucks on March 8.

The Lakers still found a way to beat Milwaukee again.

"We've got to watch this game, learn from this game," Antetokounmpo said. "Watch why we weren't able to get a stop. Watch why the ball wasn't moving down the stretch. Watch why we lost the game. Watch why there was a lot of 50-50 balls and we weren't able to get them."

D'Angelo Russell had 29 points, 12 assists and seven rebounds for the Lakers. Rui Hachimura added 16 points and 14 rebounds.

The exhaustion of both teams was apparent as nobody scored in the first three minutes of the second overtime. The Lakers briefly trailed by two in the second OT, but pulled

ahead for good on Reaves' last-minute 3-pointer.

After Antetokounmpo missed two free throws with 24.2 seconds left, Russell hit two free throws to make it 126-121 with 14.7 seconds remaining. Beasley made a 3-pointer to cut the lead to two, but Davis hit two free throws with 1.7 seconds left to seal the victory.

The Lakers never led until Spencer Dinwiddie sank a tie-breaking 3-pointer with 2:19 left in the first overtime.

From there, the game went back and forth.

Lillard's corner 3-pointer put Milwaukee ahead with 13.6 seconds left in the first overtime, but Russell drew a

foul and hit both free throws to tie with 3.1 seconds remaining.

Davis blocked Lillard on a driving layup attempt to force a second overtime.

Milwaukee seemed firmly in control for most of the night.

After a Lillard jumper with 8:25 left gave the Bucks a 94-75 advantage—matching their largest lead of the game—the Lakers outscored the Bucks 26-7 the rest of the fourth quarter to force overtime.

"Sometimes the ball just bounces different, and if you don't stay disciplined and do the things that go into how we built that lead, those leads can go away quick in this league with the shooting

that's in the league, like they did tonight," Lillard said. "That's what happened."

Taurean Prince drew a foul with 43.9 seconds remaining and made both free throws to tie the game. Both teams had a chance to win it at the end of the fourth quarter but couldn't convert.

THUNDER 119, PELICANS 112

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Jalen Williams scored 26 points and Oklahoma City rallied with a 12-0 run during the final 2:31 to escape with a 119-112 victory over New Orleans.

Josh Giddey scored 25 points and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 24, including a tying 3 with 1:29 left.

Zion Williamson had 29 points and 10 assists, and CJ McCollum scored 23 points for the Pelicans, who trailed 88-68 before using a 20-2 run to get themselves—and the crowd—back into the game.

MAVERICKS 132, KINGS 96

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Luka Doncic scored 26 of his 28 points in the first half and Dallas beat Sacramento Kings for their fifth straight win.

Doncic added 11 rebounds, six assists and three steals as the Mavericks moved into sixth place in the Western Conference, a game ahead of the Kings, with both teams trying to avoid the play-in tournament.

Kyrie Irving had 24 points and eight assists, and Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 22 off the bench.

De'Aaron Fox led the Kings with 18 points but was held to 6-of-18 shooting. Keegan Murray added 17.

Domantas Sabonis had 12 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists for his 55th straight double-double, tying Jerry Lucas for the longest streak in franchise history.

WARRIORS 113, HEAT 92

MIAMI (AP)—Klay Thompson scored 28 points, Jonathan Kuminga added 18 and Golden State pulled away in the second half to beat the still-shorthanded Miami.

Stephen Curry and Andrew Wiggins each scored 17 for Golden State, which led by two at the half and then led by as many as 22 points in the fourth.

Bam Adebayo scored 24 points for Miami, which played without leading scorer Jimmy Butler—sidelined by an illness. The Heat also were without Tyler Herro (foot) for a 16th consecutive game, Kevin Love (heel) for a 14th consecutive game and Duncan Robinson (back) for a fourth game in a row.

Raptors' Jontay Porter at center of NBA investigation into gambling activity

By TIM REYNOLDS

AP BASKETBALL WRITER

The NBA has opened an investigation into Toronto two-way player Jontay Porter amid gambling allegations, something Raptors coach Darko Rajaković said he became aware of shortly before the team's game on Monday night.

A league spokesman confirmed that the probe had been opened. ESPN first reported the investigation, which it said surrounded Porter's performance in games on Jan. 26 and March 20. In both games, Porter played briefly before leaving citing injury or illness.

Porter played 4 minutes and 24 seconds against the Los Angeles Clippers in the first of those games, then played 2:43 against Sacramento in the second game.

"I never doubt injuries. I never doubt honestly from players," Rajaković said. "Obviously, I've never had a situation like this before."

In both of those games, Porter did not come close to hitting the prop-wager lines for points, rebounds and 3-pointers that bet-

tors could play. ESPN said the props surrounding Porter for the Clippers game were 5.5 points, 4.5 rebounds and 1.5 assists; he finished with no points, three rebounds and one assist. For the Kings game, they were around 7.5 points and 5.5 rebounds; Porter finished that game with no points and two rebounds.

Porter was away from the Raptors for Monday's home game against Brooklyn, with the team citing personal reasons. He also was out for Saturday's loss at Washington, again for personal reasons. His locker was empty ahead of Monday's game against the Nets, although his nameplate was still in place. Rajaković said he had not discussed the matter with his team.

"I don't know their reaction," Rajaković said. "I just know nobody wants those kind of situations to happen to anybody, to any team. We've just got to deal with it."

In Las Vegas, Jay Kornegay, Westgate vice president of race and sports operations, said in a text message that his sportsbook received "alerts that there

were betting irregularities" regarding those games but his casino didn't have any player props up involving Porter for the dates in question.

The 24-year-old Porter, the brother of Denver forward Michael Porter, is averaging 4.4 points, 3.2 rebounds and 2.3 assists in 26 games, including five starts. The 6-foot-10 Porter also played in 11 games for Memphis in the 2020-21 season.

The league requires players to attend one "anti-gambling" training session conducted by their Team and/or the NBA each year. At least four G League players have been suspended, those sanctions ranging from three to five games, for violating gambling policies this season and in 2022, six NBA 2K League players were disqualified for breaking that league's gambling-related rules.

Per NBA rules, any player who "wagers money or anything of value on any game or event in the Association or in the NBA G League" can face sanctions from Commissioner

Adam Silver ranging from a fine to "perpetual disqualification" from the league.

"The rules are presented to us at the beginning of the season," Washington forward Corey Kispert said. "They're pretty cut and dry. They're pretty easy to follow."

The NBA has had business relationships with gaming companies for years, and lists FanDuel Sportsbook and DraftKings as official gaming partners. The league also has relationships with at least 24 other gaming operators.

Last week, Cleveland Cavaliers coach J.B. Bickerstaff revealed he received threats from gamblers last season and reported it to the NBA. "They got my telephone number and were sending me crazy messages about where I live and my kids and all that stuff," Bickerstaff said. "So it is a dangerous game and a fine line that we're walking for sure."

Bickerstaff was asked the question after All-Star guard Tyrese Haliburton of the Indiana Pacers indicated days earlier that he's grown tired

of regularly hearing criticism from people on social media about their prop bets.

Raptors forward Jordan Nwora offered a similar assessment Monday, saying he and other players routinely hear how their on-court performance affects bettors.

"All the time. Non-stop," Nwora said in comments published by The Canadian Press. "You get messages. You hear it on the sideline. You see guys talking about it all the time. It is what it is. It comes with being in the NBA. People bet on silly things on a daily basis. So, I mean, it's part of being in the NBA, it's what comes with it. I get it."

And on Monday, Los Angeles Dodgers star Shohei Ohtani said he never bet on sports or knowingly paid any gambling debts accumulated by his long-time interpreter, Ippei Mizuhara. Ohtani said Mizuhara lied to him for years and stole millions from him, in what were his first public comments about the illegal gambling and theft allegations involving him and his interpreter.

Mayuko, Yuko work wonders in women's doubles open

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

 Mayuko Arriola and Yuko Kumada went undefeated in the three-team women's doubles open to win the division championship of the 2024 Bridge Capital Tennis Classic last weekend at the American Memorial Park.

It was the most recent championship for former top junior netter Arriola and the first for Kumada. The two started the competition with a 2-6, 6-3, 10-5 comeback win over Stella Choi and Vivian Chung. Then secured the tiara with a 6-1, 6-3 triumph over Emma Lang and Savita Sikkel.

"The tournament was fun. It's been a long time since I've competed. I've really missed playing and the adrenaline of competing. I wasn't so much surprised that we won, but more relieved. I really don't like losing and I wanted to prove to myself that I can still keep up with



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Women's open doubles champions Mayuko Arriola, third left, and Yuko Kumada, second left, pose with Stella Choi and Vivian Chung and Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association president Jeff Race during the awards ceremony of last weekend's 2024 Bridge Capital Tennis Classic at the American Memorial Park.

the young ones," said Arriola.

The 34-year-old Oleai Elementary School teacher last won when she teamed up with

Jeff Race in the mixed doubles of the PIC Tennis Championships in 2020. She also placed second in the women's

singles in that tourney.

As for being outplayed in the first set of their opener by junior netters Choi and Chung,

an ultramarathon at the tender age of 50 years old.

"Congratulations to Ann for celebrating 50 years of life by

running 50 kilometers. Run Saipan is proud of its members to be taking health and wellness to different levels."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ann Bang at the homestretch of her 50-kilometer ultramarathon.

Arriola said she and Kumada just took everything in stride and persevered in the second and rubber set.

"We sort of laughed it off and joked that it was just a warmup set. We buckled down and tried to play smarter and our opponents were looking like they were getting tired so we used that to our advantage as well."

Arriola said she took up tennis once again as her oldest daughter, Natsuki, started to pick up the sport.

"I haven't really gotten back completely to be honest. My oldest daughter started taking lessons a couple months back with Jeff and I figured it'd be a good time to get back into it so she and I can hit together. Since then, though, I've only been out on the courts maybe five times before the tournament. It's been hard juggling work and my family life to find time to get out there. As my daughter learns and develops her skills, I look forward to competing with her and maybe even possibly against her if my body will hold up."

Arriola did say that playing tennis again has been great and she's happy to have somehow rekindled her love for the sport.

"It's like riding a bike and everything kind of just starts flowing once I find my groove. I can feel the difference in my body compared to when I was younger but I try not to focus on that and still push myself to play like I'm 16 again."

Kumada, meanwhile, attributed their win to her sort of namesake and how good she played last weekend.

"Her play is very dynamic and powerful. So, I was very happy playing with Mayuko," she said, adding that they didn't panic when they went down in their first outing.

"We just relaxed and enjoyed game," said the 43-year-old who has been playing tennis for four years.

In the women's 35 of the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association-organized tourney, Mae Kim went undefeated against Ming Pascual (6-1, 6-0) and Thu Tran (6-0, 6-0) to rule the division.

Top seeds Yuko Kumada and Harumi Suzuki, meanwhile, won the women's 35 doubles after also sweeping the division. They beat Jin Hua and Ming Pascual, 6-0, 6-1, and Min Han and Jing Zhao, 6-1, 6-0.



MARK RABAGO

Mayuko Arriola, right, and Yuko Kumada in action against Stella Choi and Vivian Chung in their women's open doubles match in the 2024 Bridge Capital Tennis Classic last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

CNMI

From page 16

game as South Korea scored the last 2 points—with the 21st point iced from the free throw line with still 1:33 left on the game clock. In 3x3, the team that scores 21 points first wins the game outright.

Schmidt top-scored for the CNMI with 6 points, while Santos was responsible for the other 2 points.

Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation vice president David John Apataang said despite the loss, the CNMI is proud how the team put their stamp against the taller and more experienced South Korean team.

"The appearance of our teams on such a huge stage proves that we maybe from a small island in the Pacific but our hearts and determination are unmatched. Both teams

will be facing great competitions from all over Asia and we are extremely proud that they are representing the CNMI. I know they will fight hard and do their best to earn some wins for us. Let's all tune in and support their efforts as it is a new experience for everyone!" he said.

Schmidt, Santos, Basa, and Lizama immediately returned to action against Sri Lanka at 8:30pm last night. Today, March 28, they will close out their elimination round assignment against Indonesia at 2:45pm.

The CNMI women's team of Kaia Travilla, Jan Travilla, Mikki Kautz, and Madeleine Alegre, meanwhile, saw action against India at 10:10pm last night. They will then take on Hong Kong and Indonesia today on back-to-back games at 9:20pm and 10:35pm, respectively.

BANG

From page 16

I want to sincerely appreciate their time and celebration of my 50th birthday."

As for training for the ultramarathon on her natal day, Bang said it wasn't that hard because she already trained and completed the 42-kilometer Saipan Marathon just a couple of weeks prior.

"I didn't try a specific training to prepare for my 50K run because I've always been running and finished the full marathon twice. I just prepared a strong will and belief that I would complete it. I tried to take a nap during the daytime because I would start running at midnight, but I failed to sleep. So, I just drank coffee before running," she said.

Asked to compare the Saipan Marathon and her 50K run, Bang said the latter was still harder because of Saipan's searing heat.

ing it was back to work from 12pm until 8pm."

As for participating in the NMC Golf Open and other fundraising golf tournaments on Saipan, Camacho said he's always ready to support.

"I love helping out in events and functions for a good cause to help the community, schools, or the churches. It makes me feel good knowing I can still help and not just being there to win but more to help. We all need some help, maybe not to me personally but my kids and family," he said.

Camacho also gave a shoutout to his sponsor, Marianas

Carrier, for again supporting him in the NMC Golf Open.

"As for my winnings, I'm going to spend it wisely on next month's Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament. I will be pairing up with my son, Xerxes Nigel, in the two-man scramble format tournament. I'm really excited to play with him again."

Coming in second to Camacho in the Senior Flight was Anthony Benavente with his 160 (78-82) with Jeffrey Taylor taking third with his 161 (82-79).

Camacho earned \$800 for topping the division, while

Benavente and Taylor went home with \$500 and \$300, respectively.

In the C Flight, Antonio Norita (167), James Lin (171), and Byugin Lin (177) finished 1-2-3 and also pocketed \$800, \$500, and \$300, respectively.

The NMC Golf Open, which is the signature event of the NMC Foundation, aims to raise funds to build and equip modern, innovative campus facilities that will help expand the CNMI's workforce development efforts, stimulate economic growth, and provide access to quality education for the residents of the CNMI.



Lakers beat Bucks in 2OT behind Reeves' triple-double.
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Saipan Tribune Sports

Mayuko, Yuko work wonders in women's doubles open.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Bang celebrates 50th with ultramarathon

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

While others would celebrate their half century on Earth with a cake, a hearty meal, and perhaps a brewskie, Run Saipan member Ann Bang marked the occasion by running a 50-kilometer ultramarathon and completed it in 5:41:43.

"I started planning a 50K run as soon as the new year began because I wanted to have a memorable 50th birthday. At first, I tried to run in the track and field, but my plan was changed because my friends didn't like the location," said the Seoul, South Korea native.

She settled on a back-and-forth 8-kilometer route from the Garapan Fishing Base to



The Shack that she ran six times plus another 2 kilometers to complete the big 50.

Along the way, Bang was accompanied by fellow Run Saipan members who train with her and also took part in the Saipan Marathon a couple of weeks back.

"Angela Taflinger and her husband, Chad, started running with me at midnight at the Garapan Fishing Base,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ann Bang, center, with running friends, from left, Sheila Isla, Malou Carlos, Rosemarie Chisato, and Kathy Pagapular Ruszala.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ann Bang is all smiles after completing a 50-kilometer ultramarathon yesterday to celebrate her birthday.



'Camo Joe' wins Seniors Flight

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Many-time national golfer Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho wore his lucky camo shorts again and it apparently worked as he won the Seniors Flight of the NMC Golf Open last weekend at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.



The 63-year-old LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort staff shot a two-round score of 149 to dominate the division. He shot a 4-over 76 on Day 1 on the west course before retiring to the club-

house with a 1-over 73 on Day 2 on the east course.

"The course was in excellent condition except for the light rain showers. The wind conditions weren't much of a factor for me because I practice a lot during windy days. It's actually the best time to practice in my opinion," he said.

As for the highlight of the Northern Marianas College fundraiser for him, Camacho said it was the very first hole of Round 2 of the competition.

"I think my best hole was No. 1 on the east course

See CAMO on Page 15



Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho in action in the Seniors Flight of the NMC Golf Open last weekend at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

CNMI bows to powerhouse S. Korea in 3x3 Asia Cup debut

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR


The CNMI yesterday made its historic debut in Asian basketball in the 3x3 FIBA Asia Cup in Singapore.

Douglas "Spyder" Schmidt, Coby Santos, Preston Basa, and Jack Lizama put up a gallant stand in Team NMI's 21-8 loss to powerhouse South Korea.

The CNMI actually was scoreless in the first 6:30 of the 3x3 match as South Korea spotted them 11-0.

Schmidt finally put the CNMI on the scoreboard on a floating drive going to the right. He then made it 12-3 at



FIBA ASIA

The CNMI's Douglas "Spyder" Schmidt shoots while teammate Coby Santos looks on during their game against South Korea yesterday in the 3x3 FIBA Asia Cup in Singapore.

the 5:16 mark when he scored on a 2-point shot from the beyond the arc.

The 5'10" point forward was

joined me in my run also."

She said running with friends made the ultramarathon distance a lot more bearable, especially since she started her journey at exactly midnight before going south toward the di-

rection of the Oleai Beach Bar & Grill.

"I communicated with my running buddies in the group chat and we've been training for the Saipan Marathon for two months. I revealed my

plan to my friends and they were willing to join me. They made me cry and touched me because it wasn't easy to run for a friend starting in the early morning and even at midnight!

See BANG on Page 15

Santos decided to crash the scoring party when his step-back 2-pointer found the bottom of the net 19 second later to narrow the South Koreans' lead to 15-6.

Team NMI would yield 3 straight points to the sharp-shooting South Koreans before Schmidt broke their silence when he rebounded a Lizama miss and scored the basket in one motion to peg the score at 18-7 with 3:35 to go.

The CNMI's most acrobatic play came courtesy of Santos when he drove baseline, side-stepped, and surprised his South Korean defender with a nifty reverse layup to make it 19-8. That score with 2:55 to go proved to be the team's swan song in the

See CNMI on Page 15